

“The American Dream” by Martin Luther King, Jr.

Selection Test B

Critical Reading *Identify the letter of the choice that best answers the question.*

- ___ 1. According to King, the American dream is that
 - A. every person has equal rights, dignity, and worth.
 - B. every person is exactly the same.
 - C. some people are better than others and deserve more.
 - D. human rights are granted by the state.

- ___ 2. Why does King call America “a schizophrenic personality, tragically divided against herself”?
 - A. Blacks and whites, Gentiles and Jews, and Protestants and Catholics are in conflict.
 - B. Americans refuse to develop a world perspective.
 - C. Americans have professed democracy yet have practiced the direct opposite.
 - D. Many support technological advances, but many others oppose them.

- ___ 3. What price does King say America will pay for treating people as “second-class citizens”?
 - A. unemployment
 - B. lower self-esteem
 - C. higher taxes
 - D. destruction

- ___ 4. Which of the following is the view King wants Americans to accept?
 - A. Distances are shorter.
 - B. We are brothers.
 - C. We are beyond the American dilemma.
 - D. Quote Bob Hope when appropriate.

- ___ 5. What does King mean when he refers to the “American dilemma”?
 - A. helping industry but saving environments
 - B. defining “American”
 - C. claiming equality, but segregating races
 - D. promising citizens too much

- ___ 6. Why does King say that the world has become “a single neighborhood”?
 - A. People respect one another.
 - B. All people watch the same television shows.
 - C. People can travel so quickly.
 - D. People all over want to come to America.

- ___ 7. Why does King refer to the Declaration and to the Founding Fathers?
 - A. to ground himself in American history
 - B. to quote a rhythmic passage
 - C. to make his speech longer
 - D. to move people to rewrite the document

- ___ 8. King quotes this line from the Declaration of Independence:
- We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights, that among these are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.
- Why does he choose this particular line?
- A. The line promotes nonviolence.
 - B. The line is very recognizable.
 - C. The line is easy to remember.
 - D. The line stresses the equality of people.
- ___ 9. The following sentence is a good example of King's style of writing and speaking.
- The American dream will not become a reality devoid of the larger dream of a world of brotherhood and peace and good will.
- Which word best describes up this style?
- A. passionate
 - B. vague
 - C. illogical
 - D. clipped
- ___ 10. Given his strong language about America's potential for change, what is King's purpose?
- A. to persuade his audience to vote for him
 - B. to persuade people to act morally
 - C. to persuade immigrants to vote
 - D. to change the Constitution
- ___ 11. What does King mention to introduce a lighter tone?
- A. an original joke
 - B. a story told by Bob Hope
 - C. a story told by President Kennedy
 - D. a quotation from the Constitution
- ___ 12. Which word best describes King's tone in the following sentence?
- But the shape of the world today does not permit us the luxury of an anemic democracy.
- A. ironic
 - B. hopeful
 - C. critical
 - D. despairing
- ___ 13. What does King say Americans must do to make the American dream a reality?
- A. see the world as a brotherhood
 - B. produce more ingenious inventions
 - C. travel to learn about other cultures
 - D. stop moving so quickly and work harder

- ___ 14. According to King, what principle separates totalitarian regimes from democratic governments?
- A. the right to vote in elections
 - B. a belief in individual rights
 - C. peace and brotherhood
 - D. technology and ingenuity
- ___ 15. Whom does King credit as the “true saviors of democracy”?
- A. sightseers
 - B. the writers of the Constitution
 - C. those who bring justice to all citizens
 - D. those who fight in America’s wars

Vocabulary and Grammar

- ___ 16. What is the *antithesis* of freedom?
- A. liberty
 - B. free
 - C. slavery
 - D. America
- ___ 17. Which sentence contains a reflexive pronoun?
- A. We gave the gift to her.
 - B. She gave herself only five minutes to eat.
 - C. Everyone enjoyed the speech.
 - D. Will he make a contribution?
- ___ 18. What situation is *not* an example of exploitation?
- A. paying workers less than the job is worth
 - B. taking advantage of one’s good nature
 - C. making false claims about a product
 - D. paying an employee a fair salary
- ___ 19. Which of the words is a reflexive pronoun?
- A. himself
 - B. him
 - C. his
 - D. self

Essay

20. Write a short essay summarizing King’s opinion in “The American Dream.” Explain how that opinion logically leads to his conclusion that “we must all learn to live together as brothers, or we will all perish together as fools.”
21. Write an essay in which you agree or disagree with the views King expresses in “The American Dream.” Begin by clearly stating your opinion about equality in America. Then, support your view with three or more pieces of evidence.